

FINAL REPORT

Micro-System Technology for X-ray Astronomy
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MIT Center for Space Research
Dr. Mark L. Schattenburg, Principal Investigator
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This research investigation was devoted to developing micro-system and nanotechnology for x-ray astronomy optics. The goal was to develop and demonstrate new types of lightweight, high accuracy x-ray optics for future high throughput, high resolution x-ray telescopes such as *Constellation X* (Con-X) and *MAXIM*.

A number of significant accomplishments were reported under this program, which are summarized below. Most of this work has been reported in journal and conference proceedings and in presentations to NASA and at international meeting (see Bibliography).

Developed microsheet shaping technology.

We developed and demonstrated several methods for shaping thin sheets of silicon and glass by thermal forming (slumping), block lapping methods and magneto-rheologic polishing. We demonstrated shaping of 100 mm-diameter, 400 micron-thick silicon sheets to below 0.8 micron error which meets the goals of the Con-X reflection gratings.

Improved silicon microcomb technology.

We fabricated silicon microcombs with improved accuracy. The microcombs are key components in our precision assembly tool (see below).

Demonstrated precision assembly technology.

We built a second-generation assembly truss for assembling thin foil optics and demonstrated sub-400 nm assembly repeatability of thin substrates.

Improved foil metrology.

We built and demonstrated a unique and very accurate deep-UV Shack-Hartmann test facility using a deep UV laser ($\lambda=220$ nm). The short wavelength eliminates backside reflection from the glass foils.

Built and tested constant-period SBIL system.

We built and tested a scanning-beam interference lithography system (SBIL) for constant period patterning. This system is designed to pattern the large, chirped period gratings that will be needed for high-throughput x-ray spectroscopy missions such as Con-X.

Built and tested variable-period SBIL system.

We built and demonstrated a prototype optical system for variable-period fringe generation during SBIL.

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